

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 5-24 are pending in this application after this Amendment. Claims 6-15, 17-19, and 21 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 16, and 20 to more appropriately recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application. This Amendment is made to clarify the subject matter in claims 1, 16, and 20 without introducing any new features.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 16, 20, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by *Onuki* (USP 6,377,305) in view of *Sawabe et al.* (USP 4,908,648). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating claims 4 and 5 include allowable subject matter.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended independent claims to include the subject matter of claim 4. As the Examiner has indicated that claim 4 includes allowable subject matter, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are now in proper form for allowance.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

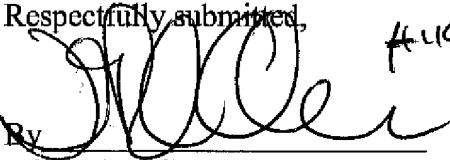
Application No. 09/585,553
Amendment dated November 27, 2006
Reply to Final Official Action of August 28, 2006

Docket No.: 3562-0102P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 27, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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